

FIRE PROTECTION POLICY BOARD

**Regular Meeting
February 28, 2007
General Administration Building
Olympia, WA**

Board Members Present: T.J. Nedrow, Sharon Colby, Wayne Wienholz, Mark Kahley, Jim Broman and Rick Chaney

Board Members Absent: Dean Hosni, Bud Hover and Jennifer Gregerson

WSP Staff Present: Mike Matlick, Dan Eikum and Anjela Foster

Guests Present: Bill Walkup, Grant Baynes, Jon Fallstrom, Randy Johnson and Kim Tanaka

OPENING:

T.J. opened the meeting with introductions at approximately 9:10.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda, with the following additions:

Issues Paper
Fire Suppression Costs
Office of Inspector General's Report

Motion passes. Unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion: It was moved and seconded to approve the following minutes:

August 23, 2006– Regular Meeting
October 25, 2006 – Work Session
January 24, 2007 – Work Session

Discussion on the Motion: The Chair noted that as there was no meeting held in November, there are no minutes to approve for November 2006.

Motion passes. Unanimous

REPORTS

Governor's Office – Kim Tanaka provided an overview of current board terms and advised that the terms of Rick Chaney, Sharon Colby, T.J. Nedrow and Mark Kahley are all scheduled to expire in April. Kim advised that it is Governor Gregoire's desire to have three names submitted to choose from for each position. Kim advised that it is the responsibility of the fire service associations represented on the Board to solicit nominations from their membership to pass forward to the Governor's Office. It was clarified that it is stated in statute that in the event there

are not three nominations provided, the incumbent will remain in their position until replaced or reappointed. Kim provided applications to the Board members with expiring positions, in the event they would like to reapply. Applications and nominations should be turned in by mid-March.

State Fire Marshal's Office –

Regional Funding - State Fire Marshal Mike Matlick provided an overview of the recent significant activities in the State Fire Marshals Office. In response to a recent question regarding having non-fire service personnel attend training provided through the regional contract funding program, Mike advised that he received guidance from Shannon Inglis (WSP's Assistant Attorney General) that it is permissible to have non-fire service individuals attend training provided through the regional funding program. Mark Kahley advised that DNR fire training should be excluded from this, as DNR's policy is to train state and government personnel only. Mike advised that he will draft a letter for review at the next meeting to clarify this issue. In further discussion relating to communications with the fire service, Mike advised that his office is continuing to explore video conferencing.

Personnel - Mike advised that Frank Garza has been appointed as the Fire Training Administrator and Melissa Gannie has been appointed to the Chief Deputy position in the Basic Firefighter Training program. Additionally, Heather Smith, who was filling the Office Assistant 3 position within the BFFTP on a temporary basis, has been appointed to the position on a permanent basis. Currently there are two vacant Deputy State Fire Marshal positions in the Prevention Division. Anjela Foster has created the concept of having one of these positions serve in a Regional Outreach capacity, and the other as a resource for the Regional Contract program.

Fire Prevention Committee – Mike provided an overview of results of the telephone survey that was conducted with County Fire Marshals. A significant result of the survey is that the data collected indicates that as a majority county officials have the understanding that local fire officials were performing the work, while the local fire officials had the understanding that county fire officials were performing the work. It is anticipated that a report containing recommendations from the Fire Prevention Committee will be forwarded to the Policy Board at their July Work Session.

Fire Training Academy – Mike advised that the Fire Training Academy construction plan is moving forward. However, legislative capital budget staffers are contemplating utilizing Certificates of Participation for funding the dormitory construction at the FTA. Debt service will be provided by additional fees charged to users of the FTA. Following discussion, T.J., stated that he is concerned about a pre-emptive decision being made without the Policy Board's input regarding funding for the Fire Training Academy Capital Construction Plan.

Motion: Jim Broman moved and Sharon Colby seconded that it go on record that the Policy Board was opposed to the use of Certificates of Participation for the FTA's dormitory construction.

Motion passes. Unanimous

Mobilization - Mike provided an overview of Talking Points that were developed to clarify the All-Risk Mobilization concept. Jim Broman requested that anytime the Mobilization Process Talking Points are distributed, that the members who developed the Talking Points are

identified, to ensure that it is viewed as the state's perspective. Mike advised that there was no legislative action passed forward this session addressing "No Man's Land." It is anticipated that this issue will be re-visited in the next legislative session.

Fire Service Trust Account - Mike provided an overview of a legislative request submitted by the Washington State Council of Firefighters that may provide approximately an additional \$675,000 each year to the Fire Service Trust Account. T.J. spoke on behalf of the Board, and advised that the Board plans to move forward on developing a plan that details possible methods of expending additional funds that may come to the Fire Service Trust Account. He also advised that the Board anticipates seeing a plan that goes beyond the Basic Fire Fighter Training Program.

2007 Meeting Schedule -

Motion: It was moved and seconded to approve the 2007 Meeting Schedule as presented.

Discussion on the Motion: Wayne Wienholz advised that he would like to coordinate a barbeque again this year. Once the date and location has been determined, the 2007 Meeting Schedule will be updated.

Motion passes. Unanimous.

Regional Contracts – Jim Broman stated that he feels that the wording "ensures" that is contained in the section relating to Investigation and Training conveys a heavy weight. He suggested that the word "ensures" be changed to "supports." Following discussion relating to regional /council structure, it was suggested that definitions be developed to ensure a common understanding of terms relating to regions and councils.

Wayne Wienholz stated that he is not in support of allowing funds to be moved from one discipline to another, while there continues to be a fire problem in our state.

Motion: Sharon Colby moved and Rick Chaney seconded to approve the 2007-08 Regional Contract Funding Application, with the understanding that word-smithing will occur.

Motion passes with 4 yeas, and 2 nays (Broman and Wienholz)

Fire Training and Education Committee – Chief Brian Van Camp provided an overview of the recent activities of the Fire Training and Education Committee and advised roughly, three out of seven strategies of the Committee are on track with good attendance. He also advised that meetings are continuing with WSP's Information Technology Division regarding development of the statewide fire service training website.

Sharon Colby brought up a concern with the 086 account and the need to clarify that this is a dedicated fund

State Fire Defense Committee – Chief Bill Walkup advised that at their last meeting, the State Fire Defense Committee focused on their 2007 Business Plan, and more specifically Goals 3 and 4. The committee has requested that Walkup request action on behalf of the Fire Protection Policy Board to resolve the issue of all risk mobilizations. He presented copies of the statute dealing with mobilization and explained his understanding of the current situation. The committee also reviewed suggested changes to the mobilization plan which they anticipate having ready to present to the Policy Board at the April Work Session. Chief Walkup also advised that they have received and approved a request from Whitman County to be moved into the NE Region for the purposes of mobilization. He will be forwarding that recommendation to the FPPB for their action.

Motion: It was moved and seconded that since the Fire Protection Policy Board has previously taken official action to approve the concept of All-Risk Mobilization, that they wish to go on record as supporting any effort to resolve the issues relating to All-Risk Mobilization.

Discussion on the Motion: In discussion it was agreed that it will be necessary to coordinate and communicate with stakeholders. Chief Baynes from Richland, Chief Johnson from Chelan County, and Deputy Chief Fallstrom from Eastside Fire & Rescue were present and involved in the dialogue and request of the Fire Protection Policy Board to resolve the all risk issue. Chair Nedrow will forward a request to Chief Batiste, along with the supporting information provided by Chief Walkup, requesting a resolution to the issue.

Motion passes unanimously.

Office of Inspector General Report – Mark Kahley provided an overview of the report developed by the USDA Forest Service Office of the Inspector General, and advised that the National Association of State Foresters feels this is a biased and incomplete report. The Report says that the states need to pay for fires which escape outside of National Forest jurisdictions, as they allowed houses to be built in forested areas. This is a major issue that will have huge cost impact on cost share agreements for both DNR and Fire Mobilization fires. Mark advised that he will provide updates on this issue.

Mark also provided an overview of Senate Bill 5315 which requires DNR to allow landowners access to their land to protect their homes from the fire. DNR does not have authority to do this as it is the responsibility of county sheriffs or local law enforcement agencies. It appears that the bill will not move forward in its current form. DNR and the WFC both are closely tracking this bill.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:

April 25, 2007 – Work Session
General Administration Building
Olympia, WA

Approved:

T.J. Nedrow, FPPB Chair

(Date)